

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A load dispersion-type duplex communication system,  
comprising:

a plurality of duplexed transmission devices;

wherein, ~~whether~~ each of said transmission devices is ~~in an overload state or in an allowable load state is judged and said transmission device judged as responsive to~~ being in said an allowable load state performs to perform a duplex operation with another transmission device and ~~said transmission device being judged as is further responsive to~~ being in said an overload state performs to perform a single and work-dividing operation with ~~said the~~ other transmission device.

2. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 1, wherein each of said transmission devices judges, for itself, whether ~~each of said that transmission devices device is in said overload the allowable load state or in said allowable load the overload state and, does in response to the judging,~~ automatically ~~switching switches~~ between ~~said the~~ duplex operation and ~~said the~~ single and work-dividing operation.

3. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 1, wherein, whether ~~said each of said transmission devices is in said the~~ overload state or in ~~said the~~ allowable load state is judged based on a data storage capacity of ~~said each of said that transmission devices device.~~

4. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~a control is made in a manner to set an overload threshold value used to judge~~ judging whether said each of said transmission devices is in said the overload state is based on an overload threshold value, or not and judging whether each of said transmission devices is in the allowable load state is based on an allowable load threshold value, used to judge whether said allowable load is below said lower than the overload threshold value, or not.

5. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 1, wherein, whether ~~said each of said transmission devices is in said the~~ overload state or in said the allowable load state is judged based on an amount of changes change in data storage capacity within stored in that communication device over a predetermined period of time, in each of said transmission devices.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ load dispersion-type duplex communication system, according to Claim 1, comprising:

first and second duplexed transmission devices, each of said transmission devices being responsive to being in an allowable load state to perform a duplex operation with another transmission device and being further responsive to being in an overload state to perform a single and work-dividing operation with the other transmission device,

wherein either of when said transmission devices are performing duplex operation,

data processed by ~~two~~ said transmission devices ~~performing said duplex operation~~ is selected and processed by a ~~low-order~~ lower-order transmission device on a transmission path, and wherein ~~if judged to be in said overload state, when said transmission devices are performing single and work-dividing operation,~~ data processed by ~~two~~ said transmission devices ~~performing said single and work-dividing operation~~ is multiplexed and processed by a ~~low-order~~ lower-order transmission device on said transmission path.

7. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 6, wherein:

~~said each of said transmission devices is provided with~~ comprises a unit used to judge section for judging whether said each of said that transmission devices device is in said the overload state or in ~~said the~~ allowable load state, and

~~said each of said transmission devices, in accordance with a judgment by said each of said that transmission devices device,~~ automatically ~~does switching~~ switches between ~~said the~~ duplex operation and ~~said the~~ single and work-dividing operation and then provides an instruction for ~~said such~~ switching to another transmission device of a same order on a transmission path and to another transmission device of a low-order transmission device lower order on said the transmission path.

8. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 6, wherein, whether ~~said each of said transmission devices is in said the~~ overload state or in ~~said the~~ allowable load state is judged based on a data storage capacity of

Serial No.: 09/929,106  
Docket No. No 1289 US  
NIS.041

~~said each of said that transmission devices device.~~

9. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 6, wherein ~~a control is made in a manner to set an overload threshold value used to judge judging whether said each of said transmission devices is in said the overload state or not is based on an overload threshold value, and judging whether each of said transmission devices is in the allowable load state is based on an allowable load threshold value, used to judge whether said allowable load is below said lower than the overload threshold value, or not.~~

10. (Currently amended) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 6, wherein, whether ~~said each of said transmission devices is in said the overload state or in said the allowable load state is judged based on an amount of changes change in data storage capacity within stored in that communication device over a predetermined period of time, in each of said transmission devices.~~

11. (Currently amended) A load dispersion-type duplex communication ~~system device,~~ comprising:

a received data selecting and multiplexing section;

a memory section ~~used to store, on a temporary basis, for storing~~ data fed from said received data selecting and multiplexing section;

a transmission path interfacing section for transmitting data from said memory section

to a further device;

a load detecting section ~~used to compare~~ for comparing the amount of data amounts  
~~accumulated~~ stored in said memory section with a threshold ~~value~~ amount; and

a controller ~~used to control each of~~ responsive to the results of the comparison by said  
load detecting section, for controlling said received data selecting and multiplexing section,  
said memory section, said transmission path interface section, and said load detecting section  
~~in accordance with results of the comparison by said load detecting section and to do~~  
switching so as to switch operation of said communication device between a duplex operation  
and single and work-dividing operation.

12. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to claim 11, wherein said controller controls said received data selecting and multiplexing section, said memory section, said transmission path interface section, and said load detecting section so as to switch operation of the communication device to the duplex operation when said load detecting section detects that said memory section is in an overload state, and controls said received data selecting and multiplexing section, said memory section, said transmission path interface section, and said load detecting section so as to switch operation of the communication device to the single and work-dividing operation when said load detecting section detects that said memory section is in an allowable load state.

13. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 12, wherein, whether said memory section is in the overload state or in the allowable load

state is judged based on a data storage capacity of said memory section.

14. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 12, wherein judging whether said memory section is in the overload state is based on an overload threshold value, and judging whether said memory section is in the allowable load state is based on an allowable load threshold value, lower than the overload threshold value.

15. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 12, wherein, whether said memory section is in the overload state or in the allowable load state is judged based on an amount of change in data stored in said memory section over a predetermined period of time.

16. (New) A load dispersion-type duplex communication system comprising a plurality of duplexed transmission devices, each duplexed transmission device comprising a receiving section for receiving data, a memory section for storing received data, an output section for outputting data from said memory section, a load detecting section for judging the amount of data stored in said memory section, and a control section responsive to said load detecting section judging that the amount of data stored in said memory section is causing that duplexed transmission device to be in an allowable load state, to cause said transmission device to operate in a duplex operation with another transmission device, and further responsive to said load detecting section judging that the amount of data stored in said memory section is causing that duplexed transmission device to be in an overload state, to

Serial No.: 09/929,106  
Docket No. No 1289 US  
NIS.041

cause said transmission device to operate in a single and work-dividing operation with the other transmission device.

17. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 16, wherein each of said load detecting sections judges whether its transmission device is in the overload state or in the allowable load state based on a data storage capacity of that transmission device.

18. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 16, wherein each of said load detecting sections judges whether its transmission device is in the overload state based on an overload threshold value, and judges whether its transmission device is in the allowable load state based on an allowable load threshold value, lower than the overload threshold value.

19. (New) The load dispersion-type duplex communication system according to Claim 16, wherein, each of said load detecting sections judges whether its transmission device is in the overload state or in the allowable load state based on an amount of change in data stored in its communication device over a predetermined period of time.

20. (New) A load dispersion-type duplex communication system, comprising:  
a plurality of means for conducting duplexed transmission;  
wherein, each of said means is responsive to being in an allowable load state to

Serial No.: 09/929,106  
Docket No. No 1289 US  
NIS.041

perform a duplex operation with another one of said means and is further responsive to being in an overload state to perform a single and work-dividing operation with the other one of said means.

21. (New) A communication method for use by a duplexed transmission device which is in a load dispersion-type duplex communication system including a plurality of duplexed transmission devices, said method comprising:

when the duplexed transmission device is in an allowable load state, performing a duplex operation with another duplexed transmission device; and

when the duplexed transmission device is in an overload state, performing a single and work-dividing operation with the other transmission device.